ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A discharge lamp driving circuit drives a discharge lamp using a high frequency wave, to start the lamp. A booster/chopper circuit has a switching element FET1, and boosts an input power supply voltage by switching the switching element. A boosting transformer supplies the discharge lamp with the voltage boosted by the booster/chopper circuit. A booster/driver circuit supplies the switching element FET1 of the booster/chopper circuit with a driving signal having a frequency of 10 to 200 kHz, thereby limiting the peak loss of the switching element FET1 to 200 W or less.